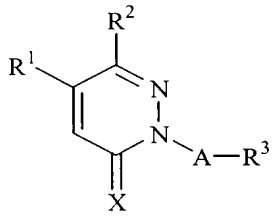
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of inhibiting osteopontin (OPN) production, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pyridazine derivative represented by the following formula (I) or a salt thereof:

~~[Chemical Formula 2]~~



(I)

wherein:

R^1 ~~means~~ is a phenyl or pyridyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen atoms and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups;

R^2 ~~means~~ is a phenyl group which may be substituted at the 4-position thereof with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group or C_{1-6} alkoxythio group and may also be substituted at one or two other positions thereof a like number of substituents selected from halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and C_{1-6} alkoxythio groups;

R^3 ~~means~~ is a hydrogen atom; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group; a phenyl, pyridyl or phenyloxy group, each of which may be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, carboxyl groups, C_{2-7} alkoxycarbonyl groups, nitro groups, amino groups, C_{1-6} alkylamino groups and C_{1-6} alkylthio groups; a substituted or unsubstituted piperidino, a substituted or unsubstituted piperidyl, a substituted or unsubstituted piperazino or a substituted or unsubstituted morpholino group; a substituted or unsubstituted aminocarbonyl

group; a C_{2-7} alkylcarbonyl ~~groups~~ group; or a substituted or unsubstituted piperazinocarbonyl group;

A ~~means~~ is a single bond, a C_{1-6} linear or branched alkylene group, or a C_{2-9} linear or branched alkenylene group; and

X ~~means~~ is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, with a proviso that A is a single bond when R^3 is a halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn-currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein in the formula (I),

R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl group, each of which may be substituted at the 4-position thereof with a halogen atom selected from fluorine, chlorine [[or]] and bromine, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

R^2 is a phenyl group substituted at the 4-position thereof with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group or a C_{1-6} alkylthio group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, or a phenyl or pyridyl group, each of which may be substituted by halogen atom or atoms; and

A is a C_{1-3} alkylene group or C_{3-4} alkenylene group.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn-currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein in the formula (I),

R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl group, each of which may be substituted at the 4-position thereof with a chlorine atom or a methoxy group;

R^2 is a phenyl group substituted at the 4-position thereof with a methoxy group or a methylthio group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, phenyl group, 4-chlorophenyl group, 2-pyridyl group or 3-pyridyl group; and

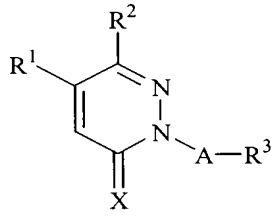
A is a methylene group, ethylene group or 2-propenylene group.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-(2-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyridazine-3-thione, 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-(3-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 5,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-chlorocinnamyl)-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 2-benzyl-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 2-(4-chlorobenzyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-(4-pyridinyl)-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 5,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-ethyl-2H-pyridazin-3-one, or a salt thereof.

Claims 5-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A therapeutic method of treating a disease resulting from enhanced OPN production, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a pyridazine derivative represented by the following formula (I) or a salt thereof:

~~[Chemical Formula 9]~~



(I)

wherein:

R^1 ~~means~~ is a phenyl or pyridyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen atoms and C_{1-6} alkoxy groups;

R^2 ~~means~~ is a phenyl group which may be substituted at the 4-position thereof with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group or C_{1-6} alkoxythio group and may also be substituted at one or two other positions thereof a like number of substituents selected from halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups and C_{1-6} alkoxythio groups;

R^3 ~~means~~ is a hydrogen atom; a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; a halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group; a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group; a phenyl, pyridyl or phenyloxy group, each of which may be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, carboxyl groups, C_{2-7} alkoxycarbonyl groups, nitro groups, amino groups, C_{1-6} alkylamino groups and C_{1-6} alkylthio groups; a substituted or unsubstituted piperidino, a substituted or unsubstituted piperidyl, a substituted or unsubstituted piperazino or a substituted or unsubstituted morpholino group; a substituted or unsubstituted aminocarbonyl group; a C_{2-7} alkylcarbonyl ~~groups~~ group; or a substituted or unsubstituted piperazinocarbonyl group;

A ~~means~~ is a single bond, a C_{1-6} linear or branched alkylene group, or a C_{2-9} linear or branched alkenylene group; and

X ~~means~~ is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, with a proviso that A is a single bond when R^3 is a halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn-currently amended): The method of claim 29, wherein in the formula (I),

R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl group, each of which may be substituted at the 4-position thereof with a halogen atom selected from fluorine, chlorine [[or]] and bromine, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

R^2 is a phenyl group substituted at the 4-position thereof with a C_{1-6} alkoxy group or a C_{1-6} alkylthio group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, or a phenyl or pyridyl group, each of which may be substituted by halogen atom or atoms; and

A is a C_{1-3} alkylene group or C_{3-4} alkenylene group.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn-currently amended): The method of claim 29, wherein in the formula (I),

R^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl group, each of which may be substituted at the 4-position thereof with a chlorine atom or a methoxy group;

R^2 is a phenyl group substituted at the 4-position thereof with a methoxy group or a methylthio group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, phenyl group, 4-chlorophenyl group, 2-pyridyl group or 3-pyridyl group; and

A is a methylene group, ethylene group or 2-propenylene group.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 29, wherein the active ingredient is 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-(2-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyridazine-3-thione, 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-(3-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 5,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-chlorocinnamyl)-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 2-benzyl-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 2-(4-chlorobenzyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-(4-pyridinyl)-2H-pyridazin-3-one, 5,6-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-ethyl-2H-pyridazin-3-one, or a salt thereof.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 29, wherein said disease resulting from said enhanced OPN production is post-PTCA restenosis, a kidney disease, tuberculosis, sarcoidosis, cirrhosis, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, prostatic cancer, breast cancer, urinary calculus or myelomatous tumor.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 29, wherein said disease resulting from said enhanced OPN production is multiple myeloma.